



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/619,379

07/14/2003

Robert D. Durand

1-20325

5427

27210

7590

09/27/2004

MACMILLAN, SOBANSKI & TODD, LLC
ONE MARITIME PLAZA - FOURTH FLOOR
720 WATER STREET
TOLEDO, OH 43604

EXAMINER

PATEL, KIRAN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3612

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,379

Applicant(s)

DURAND, ROBERT D.

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/24.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Non-Final Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 1-9, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, "a plurality of structural components that are secured together in such a manner as to form a space frame assembly" fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, "a plurality of body closure panels mounted on said structural components of said vehicle frame assembly to form the vehicular body and frame assembly" fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 2, "a generally flat panel having one or more open spaces provided therein to support other components of vehicular body and frame assembly thereon" fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It appears that page 9, line 19, "gaskets 24" should be "gaskets 34".

It appears that claim 1, line 4, "said vehicle frame assembly" lacks antecedent basis.

2. Claims, elected for prosecution, are confusing and are not clear because claimed limitations, (claim 1, a plurality of structural components that are secured together in such a manner as to form a space frame assembly; claim 1, a plurality of body closure panels mounted on said structural components of said vehicle frame assembly to form the vehicular body and frame assembly; claim 2, "a generally flat panel having one or more open spaces provided therein to support other components of vehicular body and frame assembly thereon), are not shown in the figures and/or lacks support in the specification and therefore fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These limitations must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the

claim(s). Applicant is requested to go through the application and ensure that the claimed matter has been described in the specification and shown in the drawing in such a way as to convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashina et al. (6,022,070).

Regarding claims 1-9, as best understood, Ashina et al. (6,022,070) discloses in Fig. 1-16 the invention as claimed to include a plurality of structural components 162, 164 that are secured together in such a manner as to form a space frame assembly 101 and a plurality of body closure panels 102a-102g mounted on said

structural components of said vehicle frame assembly to form the vehicular body and frame assembly; a generally flat panel having one or more open spaces Fig 1 provided therein to support other components of vehicular body and frame assembly thereon; a door closure panel 102b; a front windshield closure panel 102a; a rear windshield closure panel 102e; a floor closure panel; panels having sized and shaped recess Fig 1; first and second sealing devices Fig 13B.

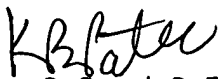
Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record in attached Notice of Reference Cited (PTO-892) and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. This art of record shows various features similar to the applicant's invention.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 703-305-0254. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Application/Control Number: 10/619,379
Art Unit: 3612

Page 6


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
September 21, 2004